

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA SENATE 61st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

#### **COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES**

**Call to Order:** Chairman Rick Laible, on January 30, 2009 at 3:15 P.M., in Room 303 Capitol.

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Sen. Rick Laible, Chairman (R)  
Sen. Rick Ripley, Vice Chairman (R)  
Sen. Gary Branae (D)  
Sen. Taylor Brown (R)  
Sen. Bradley Hamlett (D)  
Sen. Bob Hawks (D)  
Sen. Ryan Zinke (R)

**Members Excused:** Sen. Dan McGee (R)  
Sen. Sharon Stewart-Peregoy (D)

**Members Absent:** None.

**Staff Present:** Casey Barrs, Legislative Branch  
Nadine Spencer, Committee Secretary

**Audio Committees:** These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing & Date Posted: SB 266, 1/26/2009; SB 273,  
1/26/2009

Executive Action: SJ 9; SJ 3

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SJ 9**

00:02:37 **Motion:** Sen. Zinke moved that SJ 9 **BE AMENDED.**  
**EXHIBIT**(eds22a01)

**Discussion:**

00:02:50 Sen. Zinke  
00:04:51 Sen. Hawks  
00:05:43 Sen. Ripley  
00:06:13 Sen. Zinke  
00:07:19 Sen. Brown  
00:07:54 Chairman Laible  
00:08:16 Sen. Ripley  
00:09:03 Sen. Brown  
00:09:29 Sen. Branae  
00:11:11 Sen. Stewart-Peregoy entered the hearing.

00:11:19 **Vote:** **MOTION CARRIED** 5-4 by roll call vote with Sens.  
Branae, Hamlett, Hawks and Stewart-Peregoy voting no  
and Sen. McGee voting by proxy.

00:12:05 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Zinke moved that **SJ 9 DO PASS AS**  
**AMENDED. MOTION CARRIED** 8-1 by roll call vote with  
Sen. Branae voting no and Sen. Hamlett and McGee voting  
by proxy.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SJ 3**

00:13:58 **Motion:** Sen. Laible moved that **SJ 3 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

00:14:25 Sen. Hawks  
00:15:12 Chairman Laible  
00:16:36 Sen. Brown  
00:17:13 **Vote:** **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously by roll call vote  
with Sens. Hamlett and McGee voting by proxy.

00:18:09 Recess  
00:19:41 Reconvene

**HEARING ON SB 266**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:19:59 Sen. Mike Cooney (D), SD 40, opened the hearing on SB 266, Authorize school levy to pay health insurance premiums.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:23:05 Lance Melton, Montana School Boards Association (MTSBA)

00:24:57 Bruce Messinger, Helena Public Schools

00:27:09 Tom Bilodeau, MEA-MFT

**EXHIBIT**(eds22a02)

00:33:15 Lynda Brannon, Montana Association of School Business Officials (MASBO)

00:34:23 Dave Puyear, Montana Rural Education Association (MREA)

**Opponents' Testimony:**

00:36:20 Mary Whittinghill, Montana Taxpayers Association

**Informational Testimony:**

00:41:39 Joan Anderson, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:42:09 Sen. Zinke

00:42:53 Tom Bilodeau

00:46:32 Sen. Zinke

00:46:50 Tom Bilodeau

00:47:32 Sen. Zinke

00:47:39 Sen. Hamlett entered the hearing.

00:47:59 Sen. Cooney

00:48:40 Sen. Zinke

00:48:48 Sen. Cooney

00:49:07 Sen. Zinke

00:49:21 Sen. Cooney

00:49:29 Lance Melton

00:50:25 Sen. Zinke

00:50:42 Lance Melton

00:52:11 Sen. Branae

00:52:25 Lance Melton

00:53:03 Sen. Ripley

00:53:28 Lynda Brannon

00:54:07 Sen. Ripley

00:54:37 Sen. Cooney

00:55:09 Sen. Ripley  
00:55:16 Lance Melton  
00:56:29 Chairman Laible  
00:57:26 Lance Melton  
00:59:17 Chairman Laible  
01:00:14 Lance Melton

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:00:58 Sen. Cooney  
  
01:03:12 recess  
01:06:18 Sen. Hawks left the hearing.  
01:10:48 reconvene

**HEARING ON SB 273**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

01:11:02 Sen. Jesse Laslovich (D), SD 43, opened the hearing on  
SB 273, Revise school trustee laws.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

01:13:25 Lance Melton

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:15:06 Sen. Zinke  
01:15:24 Chairman Laible  
01:15:33 Sen. Ripley  
01:15:47 Sen. Laslovich  
01:15:57 Sen. Zinke  
01:16:13 Chairman Laible  
01:16:30 Sen. Laslovich  
01:17:10 Eddie Black, Montana School Boards Association (MSBA)  
01:18:03 Sen. Stewart-Peregoy  
01:18:37 Eddie Black  
01:19:36 Sen. Stewart-Peregoy  
01:19:46 Chairman Laible  
01:19:58 Eddie Black  
01:20:52 Chairman Black  
01:20:59 Eddie Black

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:21:11 Sen. Laslovich

Additional Exhibit:

**EXHIBIT**(eds22a03)

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 4:40 P.M.

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Nadine Spencer, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT ([eds22aad.pdf](#))**